

REMARKS

The amendment to the claims is merely to delete most improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. A new claim 21 has been added based on the embodiment of the specification. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings Showing Changes Made

(Rev. 01/22/01)

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

New Claim 21 has been added.

4. (Amended) The method of [any of claims 1 through 3]claim 1 wherein said weak alkali solution is an organic solution, an inorganic solution, or any combination thereof.

5. (Amended) The method of [any of claims 1 to 4]claim 1 wherein said weak alkali solution is an aqueous solution of a carbonate.

10. (Amended) The gel of [any of claims 6 to 9]claim 6 wherein a water-soluble polymer is further present during the polymerization of said polymer of acrylamide or derivative thereof.

12. (Amended) The gel of [any of claims 6-11]claim 6 wherein said gel is a capillary gel or a slab gel.

13. (Amended) The method of [any of claims 1-5]claim 1 wherein said electrophoretic matrix is said gel described in [any of claims 6-12]claim 6.

17. (Amended) An electrophoretic method of separating nucleic acids or PNA fragments in the presence of a polar organic solvent employing gel of [any of claims 6-12]claim 6 or a gel prepared according to the method of claim 13.

20. (Amended) The method of [any of claims 16-19]claim 16 wherein said nucleic acid is DNA or RNA.

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